

AMAURORNIS MOLUCCANA (Wall.).

Of this Rail, too, more material might possibly show that it differs. Two skins are rather deep slaty-grey below.

PORPHYRIO CALVUS (?ELLIOTI = NEOBRITANNICUS).

It is difficult to come to any satisfactory conclusions about the forms of *P. calvus*. See Meyer and Wigglesworth in the 'Birds of Celebes.'

EXCALFACTORIA LEPIDA Hartl.

Hitherto known only from New Britain.

MEGAPODIUS EREMITA Hartl.

New Hanover birds have been described as *M. hueskeri* by Cabanis and Reichenow, but they do not seem to differ from typical *M. eremita*.

The interest attached to this little collection of mostly large and showy birds makes the lack of knowledge of the less conspicuous forms very much felt. New Hanover would undoubtedly be a most fruitful ground for ornithological field-work.

XVIII.—*On a Collection of Birds from the vicinity of Zomba, British Central Africa, forwarded by Lieut.-Col. W. H. Manning.* By Capt. G. E. SHELLEY. *With a Note by P. L. SCLATER.*

[LIEUT.-COL. W. H. MANNING, who has been Acting-Commissioner of the Protectorate of British Central Africa during the absence of Mr. Alfred Sharpe, C.B., has not failed to continue the good work in Natural History inaugurated by his predecessors, and has forwarded to me a collection of birds, made in the vicinity of Zomba, and in the district between that and Lake Shirwa, by the Scientific Staff. The collection consists of 118 specimens, which have been examined by Capt. Shelley, and referred to 58 species. A list of the names is added, with references to the pages of Shelley's 'Birds of Africa.' All the species have been recorded in former lists of the birds from this part of Africa, except four, to which Capt. Shelley calls special attention.—P. L. S.]

I. List of the Species represented in the Collection, with References to Shelley's 'Birds of Africa.'

Name.	Shelley's 'Birds of Africa.'	Name.	Shelley's 'Birds of Africa.'
	Page		Page
1. <i>Chalcomitra gutturalis</i>	4	30. <i>Turtur damarensis</i>	137
2. <i>Anthothreptes longuemariü</i> . .	6	31. <i>Chalcopeia afra</i>	137
3. <i>Motacilla cinereicapilla</i>	12	32. <i>Lophouëtus occipitalis</i>	149
4. <i>Petronia flavigula</i>	19	33. <i>Buteo desertorum</i>	150
5. <i>Fidua principalis</i>	23	34. <i>Astur polyzonoides</i>	152
6. <i>Pyromelana flammiceps</i>	25	35. <i>Plegadis fulcinellus</i>	156
7. <i>Estrilda subflura</i>	30	36. <i>Herodias ralloides</i>	156
8. „ <i>astrild</i>	29	37. <i>Ardea ardesiaca</i>	157
9. <i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	41	38. <i>Ardetta podiceps</i>	158
10. <i>Lamprocolius sycobius</i>	43	39. <i>Hydrochelidon leucoptera</i> . .	162
11. <i>Dilophus carunculatus</i>	46	40. <i>Dendrocyena viduata</i>	171
12. <i>Sigmodus tricolor</i>	49	41. „ <i>fulva</i>	171
13. <i>Laniarius mosambicus</i>	53	42. <i>Querquedula punctata</i>	172
14. <i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	55	43. <i>Pacilonetta leuconota</i>	173
15. <i>Pycnonotus layardi</i>	60	44. <i>Thalassiornis leuconota</i>	173
16. <i>Cisticola cinerascens</i>	75	45. <i>Podiceps capensis</i>	174
17. <i>Hirundo puella</i>	102	46. <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	175
18. <i>Hapaloderma narina</i>	108	47. „ <i>alleni</i>	175
19. <i>Eurystomus afer</i>	109	48. <i>Coturnix delegorguei</i>	179
20. <i>Coracias spatulata vel weigalli</i>	109	49. <i>Otis melanogaster</i>	185
21. <i>Melittophagus meridionalis</i> . .	110	50. <i>Balearica chrysopelargus</i> . .	186
22. <i>Halcyon chelicutensis</i>	117	51. <i>Phyllopezus africanus</i>	187
23. <i>Schizorhis concolor</i>	120	52. <i>Hoplopterus speciosus</i>	188
24. <i>Ceuthmochares australis</i>	122	53. <i>Vanelus leucopterus</i>	189
25. <i>Centropus nigrorufus</i>	122	54. <i>Tringa minuta</i>	191
26. <i>Coccytes glandarius</i>	123	55. <i>Totanus stagnatilis</i>	192
27. „ <i>hypoinarius</i>	123	56. <i>Gallinago major</i> *.	
28. <i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	124	57. <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	193
29. <i>Indicator indicator</i>	124	58. <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	195

II. Remarks on Species new to the Nyassan Avifauna.

1. CORACIAS SPATULATA VEL WEIGALLI.

The specimen is in immature plumage, and has not assumed the elongated tail-feathers so characteristic of the adults. On comparing it with an immature specimen of *C. spatulata* in the British Museum, it differs only in having scarcely any trace of green on the throat. *C. spatulata* ranges from Benguela into the Makalaka and Ugogo countries, and *C. weigalli* is known by two specimens,

* *Gallinago media*, Shelley, op. cit. p. 192.

apparently both adult, from Newala, north of the Rovuma River, so we have no clue as to which of these two forms predominates in Nyasaland.

2. TOTANUS STAGNATILIS.

The Marsh-Sandpiper seems to be evenly distributed over the African Continent, in suitable damp localities, but is not very abundant there. It apparently migrates into Tropical and Southern Africa towards the end of August, to leave again early in April.

3. GALLINAGO MAJOR.

The Great Snipe is migratory like the preceding species, and ranges throughout South and East Africa. It might be best known to African ornithologists as the Short-billed Double Snipe, as the culmen measures about 2·5 inches, while that of its very near ally *G. nigripennis* measures about 3 inches. This is the character by which the two species may be most readily recognized.

4. COTURNIX DELEGORGUEI.

The single specimen is a female. The species ranges over the African Continent south of 15° N. lat., and has been procured on St. Thomas's Island, 200 miles from the West Coast, and also at Aden.

XIX.—*On a second Collection of Birds from Inhambane, Portuguese East Africa.* By W. L. SCLATER, Director of the South-African Museum. *With Field-notes by H. F. FRANCIS.*

SINCE I wrote my previous article on this subject (see above, p. 111) I have received some further consignments from Mr. Francis, which contain examples of the following species.

I add Mr. Francis's field-notes, with his initials attached.

1. *CORVUS SCAPULATUS* Daud. : Sharpe, Cat. B. iii, p. 22.

“Female: iris smoky, almost black. Inhambane, 2nd October, 1898. This Crow is plentiful here, and very